

Appl'n. No. 09/612,982
Response dated February 7, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 6, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Introduction – Status of the Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful examination of the present application.

- Claims 1-19 remain pending in this application.
- Claims 1 and 13 are the only independent claims under review.
- Claims 13-19 are canceled.
- Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112.
- Claim 17 is previously presented.
- Claims 1-12 are allowed, as the cited prior art, Sims, III (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,235, hereinafter Sims), Eldridge et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,094,721) and de Silva et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,625,347) either singularly or in combination fail to anticipate or render a limitation in Claim 1 obvious.
- Claims 13-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,685, hereinafter Smith) in view of Sims.

II. Claims 1-12 stand allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing Claims 1-12.

III. Claims 13-19 are canceled.

Applicants have canceled Claims 13-19 from this patent application. Because Claims 1-12 are allowed and remaining Claims 13-19 are canceled, Applicants believe this patent application is now in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

For all of the reasons advanced above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and that action is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' agent at the telephone number shown below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 501450.

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Respectfully submitted,



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